

REMARKS

Claims 1-6 and 19-34 were presented for examination and were pending in this application. In a final Office action dated June 6, 2005, claims 1-6, 19, 20 and 23-34 were allowed, and claims 21 and 22 were rejected. Applicants thank Examiner for examination of the claims pending in this application and addresses Examiner's comments below.

Applicant herein cancels claims 21 and 22 without prejudice. Applicant herein amends claim 19 to correct a ministerial error (adding an "and" between the last two clauses). Applicants herein add new claims 35 and 36. These changes are believed not to introduce new matter, and their entry is respectfully requested. The claims have been amended to expedite the prosecution of the application in a manner consistent with the Patent Office Business Goals, 65 Fed. Reg. 54603 (Sept. 8, 2000). In making these amendments, Applicants have not and do not narrow the scope of the protection to which Applicants consider the claimed invention to be entitled and do not concede that the subject matter of such claims was in fact disclosed or taught by the cited prior art. Rather, Applicants reserve the right to pursue such protection at a later point in time and merely seeks to pursue protection for the subject matter presented in this submission.

Based on the above Amendment and the following Remarks, Applicants respectfully request that Examiner reconsider all outstanding objections and rejections, and withdraw them.

In the 2nd paragraph of the Office Action, Examiner rejects claims 21 and 22 under 35 USC § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,005,638 to Blair et al. ("Blair"). Claims 21 and 22 are canceled without prejudice herein, and thus, the basis of this rejection is now obviated.

Conclusion

Applicants have added new claims 35 and 36 for which Applicants request consideration and examination. Applicants respectfully submit that these are supported by the specification and are commensurate within the scope of protection to which Applicants believe they are entitled.

In sum, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1-6, 19, 20, and 33-36, as presented herein, are patentably distinguishable over the cited references (including references cited, but not applied). Therefore, Applicants request reconsideration of the basis for the rejections to these claims and request allowance of them.

In addition, Applicants respectfully invite Examiner to contact Applicants' representative at the number provided below if Examiner believes it will help expedite furtherance of this application.

Respectfully Submitted,
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